



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
*United States Attorney*  
*Western District of New York*

*Further inquiries: (716) 843-5814*

---

*138 Delaware Avenue*  
*Buffalo, New York 14202*

# **PRESS RELEASE**

October 18, 2005

**ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY KATHLEEN M. MEHLTRETT  
ANNOUNCES THE CONVICTION OF THREE BUFFALO MEN  
FOR CONSPIRING TO DISTRIBUTE COCAINE**

Acting United States Attorney Kathleen M. Mehltritt announced today that following a ten day trial in front of Senior District Judge John T. Elfvin, a federal jury convicted Fred Albino, 33, Jose Hernandez, a/k/a "Poochie," 53, and Manuel Hernandez, a/k/a "Manny," 36, all of Buffalo, of conspiring to distribute cocaine in the Buffalo area between early 1999 and May of 2001, in violation of Section 846 of Title 21 of the United States Code.

As a result of their conviction, Manuel Hernandez and Albino both face mandatory prison terms of at least five years, up to a maximum of forty years, and a fine of up to \$1 million. Jose Hernandez faces a mandatory prison term of at least ten years, up to life, and a fine of up to \$2 million.

Assistant United States Attorneys Anthony M. Bruce and Everardo (Andy) Rodriguez, who tried the case, stated that these defendants were part of a large cocaine distribution ring that obtained multi-kilogram deliveries of cocaine in New York City and brought the cocaine to Buffalo to distribute it. Admitted into evidence were drug records that the Horseheads police seized from Albino that recorded sales of over eleven kilograms of cocaine and the receipt of hundreds of thousands of dollars, as well as evidence of a fleet of "trap cars" (cars with hidden compartments for concealing and hauling cocaine).

All three defendants were remanded upon the return of the verdict. No sentencing date was set.

The conviction was the result of a joint investigation on the part of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent In Charge Peter J. Ahearn, and the New York State Police, under the direction of Special Investigations Unit Commander Major Frank H. Koehler.